

CLAIM AMENDMENT

Cancel claims 26-28, 40-45 and 63 (rewritten as amended claims 25, 32, 36, 42 and 46).

25. (Amended) An electronic parking meter system comprising:

an electronic parking meter for determining the time a parking space associated with the parking meter is occupied by a vehicle and receiving coins denoting desired parking time and indicating said time;

an inductive loop vehicle detection sensor located to detect both the physical presence or absence of a vehicle in said parking space and emitting a respective signal indicative thereof;

a microprocessor controller coupled to the sensor and the electronic parking meter for selectively controlling the electronic parking meter and the controller responsive to the sensor signal; [[and]]

the electronic parking meter indicating time provided upon payment with a vehicle occupying said space to obtain a fixed amount of time in accordance with the amount of payment, said electronic parking meter decrementing the indicated time; [[and]]

said controller initializing said electronic parking meter to zero when the sensor signals the controller that a vehicle no longer occupies the parking space;

said detection sensor includes a variable oscillator circuit oscillating at a base frequency and responsive to the inductance of the inductive loop for indicating the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space;

said microprocessor controller including a crystal oscillator operating at approximately 50 times the base frequency of the variable oscillator circuit and providing a signal including the crystal oscillator for controlling the variable oscillator circuit;

the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space causing a respective decrease or increase in the inductance of the inductive loop and a respective commensurate increase or decrease in the operating frequency and a respective decrease or increase in the period of the variable oscillator circuit, thereby decreasing or increasing the number of crystal oscillator pulses in each period of the variable oscillator circuit;

said oscillator providing an output signal including said crystal oscillator pulses to said microprocessor controller; and

said microprocessor controller counting the number of pulses in a given cycle of operation of the variable oscillator circuit to determine the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space.

32. (Amended) An electronic parking meter system comprising:

multiple electronic parking meters, each electronic parking meter respectively determining the time a parking space associated with the respective

electronic parking meter is occupied by a vehicle and receiving coins denoting desired parking time and indicating that time;

multiple inductive loop vehicle detection sensors and each respective inductive loop vehicle detection sensor being located to detect both the physical presence or absence of a vehicle in said respective parking space and emitting a respective signal indicative thereof;

multiple microprocessor controllers, each controller being coupled to a corresponding sensor and a corresponding electronic parking meter for selectively controlling each electronic parking meter and each controller responsive to a respective sensor signal;

each electronic parking meter indicating time provided upon payment with a vehicle occupying said space to obtain a fixed amount of time in accordance with the amount of payment, each said electronic parking meter decrementing the indicated time; [[and]]

said controller initializing said electronic parking meter to zero when the corresponding sensor signals the corresponding controller that a vehicle no longer occupies the corresponding parking space of the associated meter;

said detection sensor includes a variable oscillator circuit oscillating at a base frequency and responsive to the inductance of the inductive loop for indicating the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space;

said microprocessor controller including a crystal oscillator operating at approximately 50 times the base frequency of the variable oscillator circuit and providing a signal including the crystal oscillator for controlling the variable oscillator circuit;

the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space causing a respective decrease or increase in the inductance of the inductive loop and a respective commensurate increase or decrease in the operating frequency and a respective decrease or increase in the period of the variable oscillator circuit, thereby decreasing or increasing the number of crystal oscillator pulses in each period of the variable oscillator circuit;

said oscillator providing an output signal including said crystal oscillator pulses to said microprocessor controller; and

said microprocessor controller counting the number of pulses in a given cycle of operation of the variable oscillator circuit to determine the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space.

36. (Amended) An electronic parking meter comprising:

multiple electronic parking meters, each electronic parking meter respectively determining the time a parking space associated with the respective electronic parking meter is occupied by a vehicle and receiving coins denoting desired parking time and indicating said time;

multiple inductive loop vehicle detection sensors and each respective inductive loop vehicle detection sensor located to detect both the physical presence

or absence of a vehicle in a respective parking space and emitting a signal indicative thereof;

multiple microprocessor controllers, each controller being coupled to a corresponding sensor and a corresponding electronic parking meter for selectively controlling each electronic parking meter for selectively controlling each electronic parking meter and each controller responsive to a respective sensor signal;

a CPU coupled to each electronic parking meter for data transmission;
[[and]]

each electronic parking indicating time provided upon payment with a vehicle occupying said space to obtain a fixed amount of time in accordance with the amount of payment, each said electronic parking meter decrementing the indicating time; [[and]]

each said controller initializing said electronic parking meter to zero when the corresponding sensor signals the corresponding controller that a vehicle no longer occupies the corresponding parking space of the associated electronic parking meter;

said detection sensor includes a variable oscillator circuit oscillating at a base frequency and responsive to the inductance of the inductive loop for indicating the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space;

said microprocessor controller including a crystal oscillator operating at approximately 50 times the base frequency of the variable oscillator circuit and providing a signal including the crystal oscillator for controlling the variable oscillator circuit;

the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space causing a respective decrease or increase in the inductance of the inductive loop and a respective commensurate increase or decrease in the operating frequency and a respective decrease or increase in the period of the variable oscillator circuit, thereby decreasing or increasing the number of crystal oscillator pulses in each period of the variable oscillator circuit;

said oscillator providing an output signal including said crystal oscillator pulses to said microprocessor controller; and

said microprocessor controller counting the number of pulses in a given cycle of operation of the variable oscillator circuit to determine the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space.

46. (Amended) A component of an electronic parking meter system, comprising:

an inductive vehicle detection sensor located to detect both the physical presence or absence of a vehicle in said parking space and emitting a respective signal indicative thereof;

an electronic parking meter for determining the time a parking space associated with the electronic parking meter is occupied by a vehicle and receiving coins denoting desired parking time and indicating said time;

a microprocessor controller coupled to the sensor and the electronic parking meter and receiving the respective signal indicative of the presence or absence of a vehicle for selectively controlling the electronic parking meter; [[and]]

said controller initializing said electronic parking meter to zero when the sensor signals the controller that a vehicle no longer occupies the parking space;

said detection sensor includes a variable oscillator circuit oscillating at a base frequency and responsive to the inductance of the inductive loop for indicating the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space;

said microprocessor controller including a crystal oscillator operating at approximately 50 times the base frequency of the variable oscillator circuit and providing a signal including the crystal oscillator for controlling the variable oscillator circuit;

the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space causing a respective decrease or increase in the inductance of the inductive loop and a respective commensurate increase or decrease in the operating frequency and a respective decrease or increase in the period of the variable oscillator circuit, thereby decreasing or increasing the number of crystal oscillator pulses in each period of the variable oscillator circuit;

said oscillator providing an output signal including said crystal oscillator pulses to said microprocessor controller; and

said microprocessor controller counting the number of pulses in a given cycle of operation of the variable oscillator circuit to determine the presence or absence of a vehicle in the parking space.